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25 (newly added). A conjugated 4-pregnen-21-hydroxy or 1,4-pregnadiene-21-hydroxy steroid, wherein the conjugant group pends from the steroid 21 hydroxyl group and comprises a neurotrophin or a neurotrophin receptor-binding fragment thereof.

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allowed, B-C-M  
26 (newly added). The conjugated steroid of claim 25, having a 21-carbamate linkage to the conjugant group.

27 (newly added). The conjugated steroid of claim 25, having a 21-phosphoramidate linkage to the conjugant group.

28 (newly added). The conjugated steroid of any one of claims 25 - 27, wherein the neurotrophin or neurotrophin fragment pends covalently through a lysine residue epsilon amino group.

29 (newly added). The conjugated steroid of claim 26, wherein the neurotrophin or neurotrophin fragment pends covalently through a thiolated lysine residue epsilon amino group.

30 (newly added). The conjugated steroid of claim 28, wherein the steroid is a corticosteroid.

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31 (newly added). The conjugated steroid of claim 30, wherein the corticosteroid is selected from the group consisting of: cortisone, betamethasone, dexamethasone, triamcinolone acetonide, and fluocinolone acetonide.

32 (newly added). The conjugated steroid of claim 31, wherein the steroid is triamcinolone acetonide.

33 (newly added). The conjugated steroid of claim 31, wherein the steroid is fluocinolone acetonide.

34 (newly added). The conjugated steroid of claim 28, wherein the neurotrophin is selected from the group consisting of: NGF, BDNF, NT-3, NT-4, and NT-6.

35 (newly added). The conjugated steroid of claim 34, wherein the neurotrophin is NGF.

36 (newly added). The conjugated steroid of claim 35, wherein the conjugant group comprises an NGF fragment capable of binding to trkA receptors and being internalized therewith.

37 (newly added). The conjugated steroid of claim 34, wherein the neurotrophin is BDNF.

38 (newly added). The conjugated steroid of claim 37, wherein the conjugant group comprises a BDNF fragment that is capable of binding to trkB receptors and being internalized therewith.

39 (newly added). The conjugated steroid of claim 25, in which triamcinolone acetonide is conjugated by a 21-carbamate linkage to NGF, or to a receptor-binding fragment of NGF, which pends covalently through a lysine residue epsilon amino group.

40 (newly added). The conjugated steroid of claim 25, in which fluocinolone acetonide is conjugated by a 21-carbamate linkage to NGF or a receptor-binding fragment of NGF, which pends covalently through a lysine residue epsilon amino group.

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REMARKS

Having transferred responsibility for prosecuting this application, applicants herein cancel all prior claims, thus obviating the existing restriction requirement, and add new claims 25 - 40 by amendment herein.